

# JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

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**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

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## **ECONOMY**

### **Local governments in China rush to lure Japanese investment** **(Nikkei Asian Review: October 16, 2018 – 3:50 p.m.)**

Chinese officials fete corporate Japan on its own turf as Sino-Japanese ties warm

TAKASHI KAWAKAMI, Nikkei staff writer

GUANGZHOU -- As Sino-Japanese relations continue to warm amid a growing U.S. trade war, local government heads in China are flocking to Japan to attract investment.

The number of investment seminars in Japan organized by senior local Chinese officials is expected to nearly double this fiscal year compared with last year, according to the Japan External Trade Organization and others. During the April-September period, Chinese officials held 18 seminars in Japan, already outpacing the number for fiscal 2017, according to Jetro.

Officials from Chongqing, a major city in southwestern China, plan to hold an investment seminar in Tokyo on Oct. 29. This follows similar seminars in September sponsored by the deputy secretary of Fujian Province and the vice mayor of Ningbo, a port city in Zhejiang Province.

China is especially keen on attracting investment in nursing care to look after its aging population -- an issue that Japan has been facing for years.

The trend to reel in investments from corporate Japan has spread from provincial governments to cities. For example, a recent Tokyo seminar hosted by the Association for the Promotion of International Trade, Japan included high-ranking officials from the city of Yangjiang in Guangdong Province.

Sino-Japanese relations soured in 2012 after Beijing reacted angrily to Tokyo's nationalization of three of the five major islets of the Senkaku Islands, which China claims as the Diaoyu. But as China's trade war with the U.S. heats up and fears of a cooling economy mount, Beijing is looking for more Japanese investment as a cure, and local governments are taking the cue.

"Regional governments are listening to the Chinese Communist Party, which is pushing for better relations with Japan," said one Japanese organizer of the seminars.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang stressed the importance of a stronger economic partnership between the two countries to high-profile Japanese delegations visiting China in September, including those from the Japan Business Federation, or Keidanren, and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. [TOP](#)

### **Abe leaves for 5-day European tour to promote free trade** **(Jiji Press: October 16, 2018 – 12:54 p.m.)**

Tokyo, Oct. 16 (Jiji Press)--Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe left for a five-day tour of three European countries Tuesday, planning to underline the importance of free trade at an international meeting.

Abe and his wife, Akie, departed Tokyo International Airport at Haneda aboard a government plane to visit Spain, France and Belgium.

The prime minister will attend a summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting, or ASEM, forum in Brussels on Friday. While calling for additional efforts to promote free trade, Abe will urge other ASEM countries to implement sanctions against North Korea under U.N. Security Council resolutions.

"I want to highlight Japan's stance of pursuing the resolution of North Korea's nuclear, missile and abduction issues and affirm close cooperation with leaders of other countries," Abe told reporters before his departure.

"As a flag bearer of free trade, I'll strongly underline the significance of strengthening an economic order based on free and fair rules," he said.

He also expressed a wish to call for an early effectuation of the economic partnership agreement for free trade signed by Japan and the European Union earlier this year.

The ASEM forum is composed of 53 countries and organizations, including Japan, China and South Korea as well as the member countries of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations and the European Union.

Main agenda items of the summit will include sustainable development.

Abe is expected to emphasize the importance of high-quality infrastructure construction and transparency in investment projects, informed sources said.

He will hold talks with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez in Spain and French President Emmanuel Macron in France, aiming to agree on the need to boost bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, cultural exchanges and national security.

Abe will return home Saturday. [TOP](#)

**Japan, EU to sign MOU on joint financing of infrastructure projects**  
(Nikkei: October 17, 2018 – p. 4)

Japan and the European Union (EU) will hold the inaugural meeting of their High-Level Dialogue for Industry, Trade and Economy in Tokyo on Oct. 22. They will sign a memorandum of understanding on cooperation on infrastructure projects in the Middle East and Africa. They are also expected to discuss an economic cooperation mechanism based on free and fair rules with an eye on the effectuation of the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement. These moves are aimed at containing China's "One Belt, One Road" economic initiative and the U.S.'s protectionist policy.

At their summit meeting in July, Japan and the EU agreed to set up a High-Level Dialogue for Industry, Trade and Economy. Foreign Minister Taro Kono and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko will attend the upcoming meeting for Japan, and European Commission Vice President Jyrki Katainen will represent the EU.

Japan and the EU will agree on a policy of jointly financing infrastructure projects in third countries. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) will sign a memorandum of understanding with the European Investment Bank (EIB). The Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) will also join the agreement. The semipublic financial institutions of Japan and Europe will help private enterprises expand their reach in regions spanning from Asia to Europe.

What Japan and the EU eye beyond their bilateral accord is China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative. Japan and Europe advocate quality infrastructure investments with an emphasis on fiscal integrity and transparency in public procurement procedures. They share common concerns on such issues as developing nations becoming debt-ridden due to Chinese investments. They are looking to share their expertise in infrastructure development and energy cooperation to promote fair and sustainable investment rules in the international community. [TOP](#)

**Keidanren demands clear eligibility criteria under new resident status program**  
(Jiji Press: October 16 - 11:18 p.m.)

Tokyo, Oct. 16 (Jiji Press)--The Japan Business Federation, or Keidanren, urged the government on Tuesday to clarify the criteria for selecting industries eligible for the planned new resident status program.

In its recommendations on the state initiative to expand the number of overseas workers in the country, Keidanren said the government "should show Japanese citizens and companies satisfactory and specific criteria" for the selection of industrial sectors that will be allowed to employ foreign workers more easily than now with the new resident status.

Keidanren, the largest business lobby in the country, apparently hopes to prevent the number of low-cost foreign workers from surging amid serious workforce shortages particularly in industries relying on simple labor.

Before singling out eligible industries, the government should make clear required levels of expertise and skills after considering the possibility of information technologies and artificial intelligence substituting manpower, the group said while refraining from naming specific sectors.

Keidanren also called on the government to endeavor to create a society where foreigners and Japanese people can coexist, saying that open living and work environments should be developed.

Furthermore, it encouraged local governments to enhance Japanese language education for foreign workers and make administrative services available in multiple languages, while demanding the central government fund programs to improve the skills of teachers at public schools so they can better provide education to children of foreign workers coming to the country.

Meanwhile, Yoshimitsu Kobayashi, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, or Keizai Doyukai, suggested at a news conference the same day that the government accept foreign workers for time-limited simple labor in a planned manner to make up for manpower shortages. [TOP](#)

#### **Keidanren policy recommendation calls for respect for foreign workers' human rights** (Asahi: October 17, 2018 – p. 4)

Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) released on Oct. 16 its recommendations on the government's policy to expand the intake of foreign workers, calling for respect for foreign workers' human rights and the realization of a society that accepts diversity.

In view of the discovery of various illegal acts, such as making technical interns work long hours, Keidanren calls on its member companies and their clients to "abide by the law and respect international standards, including human rights, with regard to the supply chain" and vows to "give active support to appropriate efforts." (Abridged) [TOP](#)

#### **POLITICS**

#### **Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 16, 2018** (Sankei: Oct. 17, 2018 – p. 5)

October 16, 2018	
08:08	Left his private residence in Tomigaya, Tokyo.
08:22	Arrived at the Prime Minister's Office [Kantei].
08:32-08:40	Held a cabinet meeting.
08:58-09:00	Gave an interview to media outlets.
09:01	Left the Kantei.
09:19	Arrived at Haneda Airport.
09:46	Departed from the airport on a government plane with his wife, Akie, for a tour of three European countries.
	(local time)
Afternoon	Arrived at Torrejon Air Base in the suburbs of Madrid, Spain.

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#### **Fujiwara appointed MEXT vice minister** (Mainichi: October 17, 2018 – p. 2)

On Oct. 16, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology announced that Deputy Vice Minister Makoto Fujiwara (61) will be promoted to the position of administrative vice minister. Fujiwara will succeed former Administrative Vice Minister Kazuo Todani (61), who resigned in September over a bribery scandal involving other senior officials of the ministry.

Michiyasu Takahashi (57), former director-general of the Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, also resigned over the same scandal. The ministry appointed Yoshihisa Nagayama (57), director of the Open University of Japan, to the position. Deputy Minister Shinjiro Komatsu (62) retired, and Cabinet Secretariat Councillor Satoshi Ashidate will take over his position. The appointments are effective as of Oct. 16. [TOP](#)

#### **Inoue appointed special advisor to finance minister** (Asahi: October 17, 2018 – p. 4)

On Oct. 16, the government appointed House of Representatives member Takahiro Inoue (Liberal Democratic Party) to the position of special advisor to Finance Minister Taro Aso. As special advisor,

Inoue will be in charge of arranging the meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors scheduled to be held in Fukuoka City next year. The G20 is an international forum composed of 19 major economies and the European Union. Inoue has been elected three times as representative of Fukuoka Electoral District No. 1. [TOP](#)

### **LDP's new executive lineup sets sail** **(Yomiuri: October 16, 2018 – p. 4)**

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) decided on the new directors of the Policy Research Council's policy divisions at a special meeting of the General Council on Oct. 15. With this, the renewal of the party's organization following the cabinet reshuffle and the new executive lineup is essentially complete. Although the party is making a new start with sights set on the extraordinary Diet session coming up on Oct. 24, the revelation of a failure to report political revenues by one of the top three ministry officials is causing concern to the party.

### **Koizumi gets the position he hoped for**

"It's important for up-and-coming party members to have experience as policy division directors," said General Council Chairman Katsunobu Kato during a press conference on Oct. 15, expressing his hopes for the new directors.

Former Chief Deputy Secretary General Shinjiro Koizumi's new post has been the focus of attention after he supported former Secretary General Shigeru Ishiba in last month's LDP presidential election. He has assumed the post of director of the Health, Labor and Welfare Division, as he had hoped. His appointment was reportedly made in view of his leading role in proposing a social security reform as director-general of the "LDP Headquarters for 100-Year Life Society Strategy."

Last year, Koizumi and other young LDP members suggested a "child insurance" scheme to fund free preschool education with premiums. The plan is yet to be implemented, but one longtime LDP member speculates, "Discussions on the scheme could be rekindled at the Health, Labor and Welfare Division." In a post to his Facebook page on Oct. 15, Koizumi said, "I'm determined to fulfill my responsibilities as director to provide benefits to the entire public."

### **Posts awarded based on level of contribution**

In the recent cabinet reshuffle and appointment of new party executives, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe awarded positions in light of each intraparty faction's level of contribution to the LDP presidential race. He also made the surprising move of selecting Lower House member Takashi Yamashita of the Ishiba faction (elected three times to the Lower House) as justice minister. Taking into account requests from intraparty factions, Abe considered factional balance in appointing state ministers, parliamentary vice-ministers, and Policy Research Council policy division directors.

Abe also brought out his own character by installing lawmakers close to himself to the posts related to his long-cherished goal of constitutional amendment. He picked former Education Minister Hakubun Shimomura as chairman of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Revision of the Constitution and Katsunobu Kato as the head of the General Council, which approves draft constitutional revisions. Shimomura expressed his determination by telling reporters at the LDP Headquarters, "I'll work very hard to raise the issue of [draft constitutional revisions] for discussions at the Commissions on the Constitution [of both houses of the Diet]."

Abe also reappointed Koichi Hagiuda as Executive Acting Secretary General and appointed Tomomi Inada as Chief Deputy Secretary General to assist LDP Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai. Both Hagiuda and Inada are Abe's close aides.

### **"Devilish third-term Diet members"**

What is causing concern to LDP members are the inappropriate remarks by and scandals involving new cabinet ministers. On Oct. 15, newly appointed Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Shozo Kudo was forced to offer clarification on his own political funds. Many Diet members who won a seat for the first time in the 2012 Lower House election are now called “the devilish third-term Diet members” for the series of scandals they have caused. Many were appointed to the post of parliamentary vice-minister, and Kudo is one of them.

At an event held in Tokyo’s Shinjuku Ward on Oct. 15, third-term Diet member and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Hideo Onishi, who was once criticized for saying, “(Cancer patients) needn't work,” said self-deprecatingly, “Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Masatoshi Ishida told me, ‘Keep your mouth shut!’”

Following is the list of the new Policy Research Council policy division directors decided at the special meeting of the LDP General Council on Oct. 10.

Director of the First Cabinet Division	Kuniko Inoguchi
Director of the Second Cabinet Division	Masaaki Taira
Director of the National Defense Division	Tomohiro Yamamoto
Director of the Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications Division	Jiro Akama
Director of the Judicial Affairs Division	Gaku Hasegawa
Director of the Foreign Affairs Division	Shinpei Matsushita
Director of the Treasury and Finance Division	Takao Ochi
Director of the Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Division	Masaaki Akaike
Director of the Health, Labor and Welfare Division	Shinjiro Koizumi
Director of the Agriculture and Forestry Division	Tetsuro Nomura
Director of the Fisheries Division	Yoshitaka Ito
Director of the Economy, Trade and Industry Division	Akihiro Nishimura
Director of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Division	Tadahiko Ito
Director of the Environment Division	Naomi Tokashiki

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#### **Upper House member Nakano to return to LDP** (Yomiuri: October 17, 2018 – p. 4)

Hiromi Yoshida, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) caucus in the House of Councillors, announced at a news conference on Oct. 16 that Upper House member Masashi Nakano, leader of the political group “Party for Japanese Kokoro,” had inquired about returning to the LDP.

The LDP will take the necessary procedures and approve Nakano’s membership in time for the extraordinary Diet session to be convened on Oct. 24.

The Party for Japanese Kokoro formed a joint floor group in the Upper House with the LDP in January 2017. It lost the status of a political party after the October 2017 House of Representatives election. [TOP](#)

#### **Abe’s close confidants appointed to LDP team working for constitutional revision** (Yomiuri: October 17, 2018 – p. 4)

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) decided on Oct. 16 the members of its new team working for constitutional revision. Diet members close to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (LDP president) were named to key positions, thus demonstrating Abe’s desire to realize his longstanding dream of revising the Constitution. The LDP will present the proposed provisions on four issues that it drew up last March to the extraordinary Diet session to be convened shortly to kick off discussions on constitutional revision with the other parties.



Hakubun Shimomura, a close confidant of Abe who chairs the Headquarters for the Promotion of Revision to the Constitution, announced to reporters at the LDP headquarters the members of the new team.

All six LDP directors in the House of Representatives Commission on the Constitution are being replaced. Yoshitaka Shindo, former minister of internal affairs and communications of the second Abe cabinet, was named the ruling parties' principal director, who will negotiate with the opposition parties. Shimomura will also serve as a director in the commission. Gen Nakatani and Hajime Funada, who were principal director and director, respectively, during the regular Diet session this year, stepped down.

The new team is meant to work to achieve a breakthrough since no substantial debate on constitutional revision took place at the regular Diet session. Shimomura showed great enthusiasm for speeding up the debate, noting, "We need to shift gears." However, he also stressed, "You might think that hardliners have become directors in the commission, but that is not true. We would like to proceed carefully while cooperating with the opposition parties."

Lower House member Katsuei Hirasawa has been named the secretary general of the LDP constitutional revision headquarters, which will be responsible for drafting the proposed provisions. Nakatani and Funada have been retained as the headquarters' deputy chair and adviser, respectively, while former Secretary General Shigeru Ishiba is also staying on as an adviser. It appears that this was a step taken to dodge criticism that the LDP is "stifling dissent."

Secretary General Tetsuo Saito of Komeito, which is cautious about constitutional revision, told reporters at the Diet on Oct. 16: "I believe the new members will also value the discussions that have been held up until now. That will be the shortest way, because haste makes waste." He cautioned the LDP not to be overzealous.

Shimomura said that the LDP plans to submit the draft provisions on the four issues for free discussion at the Commissions on the Constitution in the upcoming extraordinary Diet session. This party envisions starting the debate at the extraordinary Diet session, finalizing the draft proposals in the regular Diet session next year based on the opinions of all parties, and submitting motions for constitutional amendment before the House of Councillors election next summer. Since objections can be expected when the LDP formulates its proposals, Abe named his close confidant Katsunobu Kato to chair the General Council to make it easier for his views to be reflected in the proposals.

Meanwhile, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and most other opposition parties are demanding the prioritization of the deliberation on amendments to the National Referendum Law which stipulates procedures for constitutional amendment. They are refusing to accept the LDP's proposals.

The new team will be facing a tough challenge because if it deals with the proceedings at the constitution commissions in a high-handed manner, this will intensify conflict with the opposition, thus making it impossible to forge a broad consensus on constitutional revision. *(Slightly abridged)* [TOP](#)

### **Amari faces tough challenges as LDP Election Strategy Committee chief** **(Sankei: October 17, 2018 – p. 5)**

Akira Amari, who was appointed chair of Election Strategy Committee in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leadership reshuffle earlier this month, is already facing challenges. While his most formidable task will be managing the House of Councillors election next summer, there are also a number of important local elections taking place before that. Two years and eight months after he resigned from the cabinet over a money scandal, the caliber of Amari, who is aiming at a political comeback, is being put to the test.

Amari revealed how he came to head the Election Strategy Committee in his e-mail newsletter that came out on Oct. 3: "Next year will be the first time in 12 years that simultaneous local elections, scheduled for April, and an Upper House election, taking place in July, will both be

held. How we fare in these elections will decide the fate of the cabinet. I could not possibly turn down Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's request."

Amari, a close ally of Abe, resigned as economic revitalization minister in January 2016 over a money scandal involving a construction company, thus stepping down from the political stage temporarily. Abe did not appoint Amari to the cabinet but gave him one of the top four LDP executive positions this time because a cabinet minister could face attacks from the opposition in the Diet.

To repay Abe for trusting him, the first challenge Amari will face as election strategy chief will be the Naha mayoral election on Oct. 21 and the Niigata mayoral election on Oct. 28.

A neophyte candidate endorsed by the LDP and others and the incumbent mayor supported by Denny Tamaki, who just won in the gubernatorial election on Sept. 30, will clash in the Naha election. While the LDP would like to avoid another loss, Tamaki won over the ruling parties' candidate in Naha in the gubernatorial race by a margin of 27,000 votes. A LDP source reckons that "the situation is tough."

Coordination on the selection of the candidate for the Niigata election fell through, so the decision was left in the hands of the LDP headquarters. Neither a former city assembly member who is the son-in-law of a former LDP House of Representatives member nor a former Upper House member belonging to the Nikai faction would back down and both were seeking the party's official endorsement. Amari decided not to give any endorsement and simply "support" the former Upper House member. The conservatives will be divided in this election. Amari's aide voiced concern that he has had to face a formidable hurdle at this early stage.

For the Yamanashi gubernatorial race in early 2019, the LDP Yamanashi chapter is having a hard time coordinating on its candidate to run against the incumbent governor, who was a member of the former Democratic Party of Japan. There are rumors that the conservatives may go into the election divided.

The simultaneous local elections, including gubernatorial races in Hokkaido, Kanagawa, Fukuoka and seven other prefectures, are taking place next spring.

Amari, who was involved in Abenomics, the TPP negotiations, and other key policies, is not necessarily an expert on election strategy. While he had contributed to Abe's reelection for a third term in the LDP presidential election in September as the secretary general of Abe's campaign headquarters, Abe was only able to win 55% of the rank-and-file votes, leaving something to be desired. A senior LDP official observes, "Unlike policy, elections do not necessarily follow logic. We are anxious about the Upper House election."

### Upcoming major elections

2018	Oct. 21	Naha mayoral election
	Oct. 28	Fukushima gubernatorial election, Niigata mayoral election
	Nov. 11	Kanazawa mayoral election
	Nov. 18	Ehime gubernatorial election, Fukuoka, Kumamoto, Matsuyama mayoral elections
	Nov. 25	Wakayama gubernatorial election
	Dec. 16	Saga gubernatorial election
	Dec. 23	Miyazaki gubernatorial election
2019	Jan. 27	Yamanashi gubernatorial election
	Feb. 3	Aichi gubernatorial election
	April	Simultaneous local elections (Hokkaido, Kanagawa, Fukui, Mie, Nara, Tottori, Shimane, Tokushima, Fukuoka, Oita gubernatorial elections, 41 prefectural assembly elections, etc. By-election in Lower House Okinawa third district?
	July	Upper House election (members' term ends on July 28)

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**Roundup of newspaper editorials on U.S.-DPRK denuclearization talks, Japan's defense posture**

**(Sankei: October 17, 2018 – p. 9)**

Since North Korea shifted to smile diplomacy during the PyeongChang Olympics in February, it would appear that this country has become more tractable on the surface.

Yet North Korea has not given up its nuclear and missile capabilities at all and no progress has been made in the abduction issue.

Workers' Party of Korea Chairman Kim Jong Un did come to the negotiating table as a result of President Donald Trump's imposition of maximum military and economic pressure. Yet the outcome of the first U.S.-DPRK summit on June 12 was disappointing.

All newspapers openly indicated their disappointment and concern. Sankei Shimbun published an editorial entitled, "Concern about an inadequate agreement," because the U.S.-DPRK joint statement failed to mention "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization (CVID)." (Mainichi Shimbun)

However, newspapers differed subsequently on how to make progress in the U.S.-DPRK talks.

Sankei, Yomiuri Shimbun, and Nikkei emphasized the need to sustain sanctions. Yomiuri said that "it is a matter of course that Trump should indicate his policy of continuing the sanctions." Sankei and Yomiuri also criticized Trump's mention of plans to discontinue joint U.S.-ROK military exercises as a "mistaken decision." (Sankei)

Asahi Shimbun and Mainichi did not touch on the need for sanctions or question the discontinuation of U.S.-ROK exercises.

Without any notable progress being made in subsequent U.S.-DPRK talks, discussions are now underway for holding a second U.S.-DPRK summit.

All newspapers voiced their frustration at the "lack of any results after more than three months." (Nikkei, Sept. 26) Their position of urging the U.S. to "set a clear course for denuclearization" (Mainichi, Oct. 4) has remained unchanged.

Meanwhile, the ROK and North Korea have started to remove mines near the North-South demilitarized zone. They will also set up a no-fly zone.

Sankei argued: "Is it right to downgrade deterrence when the threat has not diminished?" Yomiuri also voiced concern. They took the realistic position that diplomacy needs to be backed by deterrence.

Asahi, Mainichi, and others limited themselves to discussing what needs to be negotiated with North Korea. They lacked the awareness of what could motivate North Korea, which only believes in force.

Building defense capability becomes an issue in the face of the threat from North Korea and China.

A new National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) will be drafted in December. At a meeting with senior Self-Defense Forces (SDF) officers on Sept. 3, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated: "The security environment is deteriorating at tremendous speed, way beyond what was foreseen five years ago."

Sankei, Nikkei, and Yomiuri supported an increase in the defense budget.

Sankei wrote: “There needs to be a drastic policy shift toward a substantial increase in the defense budget” because “the neighboring countries are rapidly expanding their military power and widening their lead over Japan.” It pointed out that while the efficiency of the budget certainly needs to be emphasized, “it must be remembered that the destruction of peace will cost human lives and entail enormous financial expenditures.” (Sept. 4)

The defense budget in recent years has stayed slightly below 1% of GDP. Nikkei cited the figure “1.2% of GDP” suggested last year by the Nakasone Peace Institute, a think tank headed by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, as the “appropriate level” for the time being. (Aug. 27)

Yomiuri asserted that “it is important to build Japan’s defense capability steadily with a vision of the future security environment,” but urged the government to “fully assess cost-effectiveness.” (Aug. 20)

Asahi made critical comments on the FY19 defense budget requests on the grounds of tight government finances, asking: “Until when do they intend to continue [the increase]?”

Mainichi also stated: “It would be dangerous if the increase in budget requests were an attempt to lay the groundwork for a defense policy shift.” (Sept. 3)

Wishful thinking is unacceptable when it comes to security. Deterrence must be maintained in response to developments in countries that might pose a threat. Asahi and Mainichi failed to see that.

The Abe administration decided to procure new equipment for the SDF last December, including Aegis Ashore to be deployed by Ground SDF and long-range cruise missiles for Air SDF fighters.

Sankei, Yomiuri, and Nikkei supported these two decisions.

Sankei pointed to the reality that “considering Japan’s security environment, the threat posed by ballistic and cruise missiles is not likely to disappear for some time,” calling for “speeding up” the deployment of Aegis Ashore.

Yomiuri supported the deployment of long-range cruise missiles, arguing that “possessing the means for effective counterattacks against long-range missiles will also enhance deterrence and make the enemy think twice about launching an attack.” (Dec. 13, 2017)

On the other hand, Asahi criticized the deployment of cruise missiles, stating they “are not necessarily indispensable for the protection of Aegis ships and for island defense” and that they would breach the exclusively defensive security policy. It also opposed the deployment of Aegis Ashore for “running counter to the trend of relaxation of tension between the U.S. and North Korea that has just begun.” (Aug. 1)

Mainichi also called for caution in the deployment of the two weapon systems, pointing out that the cruise missiles are “inconsistent with the exclusively defensive security policy.” (Dec. 12, 2017)

Sankei even called for a shift from the exclusively defensive security policy, which is upheld by the government and the other papers, to a policy of “active defense” because “each time there is a move to acquire new defense capabilities, there will be moves to bring out this policy to obstruct the effort.” (Jan. 5) (*Slightly abridged*) [TOP](#)

**Opposition leader Tamaki suggests “considering option of first seeking return of two Northern Territories islands”**  
(Mainichi: October 17, 2018 – p. 5)

On Oct. 16, Democratic Party for the People leader Yuichiro Tamaki presented his view on the issue of the Northern Territories: “Shouldn’t we consider the option of first seeking the return

of the Habomai Islands and Shikotan?” He made this comment to the press after observing the Northern Territories from Cape Nosappu in Nemuro City, Hokkaido.

While maintaining the principle of seeking the return of all four islands at the same time, Tamaki pointed out, “In order to produce results even a day earlier, we need to think flexibly about what ways we have of achieving that.” He said, “This is a very difficult issue involving sovereignty, but a political decision will need to be taken at some point.” [TOP](#)

**Kamakura, Nashville agree to further promote exchange as “partner cities”**  
**(Kanagawa Shimbun: October 17, 2018 – p. 20)**

A delegation from Nashville, the state capital of Tennessee, visited the Kamakura City Hall on Oct. 16 to meet with Mayor Takashi Matsuo. The two cities have a “partner city” agreement for the promotion of exchange between citizen groups. The city leaders agreed to further deepen such exchange.

The delegation consisted of Mayor David Briley, Nashville’s new mayor who was just elected in May, and 22 members of the Nashville Metropolitan Council and business leaders.

The two cities signed a “partner city” agreement in September 2014 on cooperation in such areas as education, culture, and the arts. The Kamakura-Nashville Friendship Association, which was set up to foster friendship and goodwill between the two cities, has engaged in grassroots exchanges with organizations in Nashville.

Mayor Matsuo stated at the meeting: “I am very pleased that exchanges continue between our citizens.”

Briley, who arrived in Japan on Oct. 15, gave his impressions of his visit to Kamakura, his first ever. “We are enjoying Kamakura’s traditions and the tasty food,” he said. “The most important thing is for individuals to get to know each other. We would like to continue to expand our ties.”

The delegation will be staying in Kamakura until Oct. 17. They will visit Engakuji Temple, Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, ateliers making traditional Kamakura-bori lacquerware, and other places of interest. [TOP](#)

**SECURITY**

**Okinawa governor reiterates opposition to Henoko relocation in policy speech to prefectural assembly**  
**(Mainichi: October 17, 2018 – p. 29)**

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly opened its first session since the recent gubernatorial election (on Sept. 30) on Oct. 16. Governor Denny Tamaki, who assumed office on Oct. 4, delivered a policy speech.

On the plan to relocate the MCAS Futenma (in Ginowan City) to the Henoko district in Nago, he stated: “Shifting the burden to other Okinawan citizens and forcing them to make fresh sacrifices is not the solution we want. We are opposed to the construction of a new military base in Henoko and strongly demand the government to close the Futenma base and return [the land] as soon as possible.”

Tamaki attended his first prefectural assembly session in a navy blue *kariyushi* shirt. In his speech, he expressed his resolve: “I am imbued with a feeling of forward-looking determination as the representative of Okinawa’s 1.45 million residents. I will carry on the will of the late Governor Takeshi Onaga and do my best in the administration of the prefecture.”

With regard to other U.S. military base issues, Tamaki stated: “We will also demand a drastic review of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), the application of domestic laws

on aviation and the environment, a guarantee that local government officials are able to have quick access to the scenes of crimes and accidents, and so forth.” [TOP](#)

## **OPINION POLLS**

### **57% are “pessimistic” about policy on reforming social security so it covers all generations (Asahi: October 16, 2018 – p. 1)**

In the nationwide (telephone-based) public opinion poll conducted by the Asahi Shimbun on Oct. 13–14, some 57% of respondents said they are “not hopeful” about “reform of the social security system so that it is oriented to all generations,” a policy that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has advocated. Only 32% said they are “hopeful.” Asked what policy they would like to see the Abe administration focus on the most, some 30% of respondents said “social security,” making it the most frequently given response. However, expectations for the reform were low.

Support and nonsupport for the Abe cabinet were equal, with the support rate at 40% (previous poll conducted on Sept. 8–9: 41%) and nonsupport at 40% (38%). The cabinet reshuffle, therefore, did not have the impact of raising cabinet support.

When pollees were asked to select from a list of six policies the one they want to see the Abe administration focus on, “social security reform” was the most frequently given response, exceeding “economy and employment.” Asked whether they have high hopes for Prime Minister Abe’s reform of social security, pollees in their 30s or under were split with both those saying they are “hopeful” and those saying they are not in the 40% range. Among pollees in their 40s or over, however, more said they are “pessimistic” than said they are “optimistic.” Some 69% of those in their 60s said that they are “not hopeful.”

The poll asked respondents whether they are optimistic that the issue of the abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea will head toward resolution under Prime Minister Abe. Some 59% said they are “not optimistic,” exceeding the 33% who said they are “optimistic.”

Some 49% said they are “in favor” of accepting more foreign workers to relieve the labor shortage, while 37% said they are “opposed.” Some 56% of male pollees said they are “in favor,” while women were evenly divided with 41% “in favor” and 41% “opposed.”

Some 50% said that they “do not approve” overall of the reshuffled cabinet launched on Oct. 2, while only 22% said they “approve.” Even among LDP supporters, some 31% said they do not support the reshuffled cabinet. A plurality of 58% of independents said they do not approve of the new cabinet lineup.

Asked if they approve of the retention of Finance Minister Taro Aso, 54% said no while 29% said yes. Meanwhile, 54% said that “more women should have been appointed to the cabinet.”

A plurality of 82% said “suspicions regarding the scandal surrounding the creation of a new veterinary school by Kake Educational Institution have not been cleared up” by the explanations given by Prime Minister Abe and Chairman Kotaro Kake to date. Only 6% said that the suspicions have been resolved.

**[Polling methodology:** The survey was conducted on Oct. 13–14 on a computer-aided random digit dialing (RDD) basis of voters nationwide with telephone calls placed by pollsters to landline and mobile phone numbers (for landlines, some districts in Fukushima Prefecture were excluded). Valid responses were received from a total of 1,937 persons, including 965 persons (out of 2,040 households found to have one or more eligible voters) for landline numbers and 972 persons (out of the 2,021 persons found to be eligible voters) for mobile numbers. The valid response rates were 47% for landline numbers and 48% for mobile numbers.] [TOP](#)

### **55% say Henoko relocation plan “needs to be revised,” Asahi poll (Asahi: October 16, 2018 – p. 4)**

The nationwide (telephone-based) public opinion poll conducted by the Asahi Shimbun on Oct. 13–14 probed views on the relocation of MCAS Futenma in Okinawa Prefecture to the Henoko district of Nago. Denny Tamaki, who is opposed to the relocation to Henoko, was elected in the Okinawa gubernatorial election last month. Some 55% said that the Abe administration “needs to review” its relocation policy in light of the results of the election, while 30% said that this is “not necessary.”

Some 49% of male pollees said that the plan “needs to be revised,” while 61% of female pollees said the same. By political party supported, some 38% of Liberal Democratic Party supporters said a “review is necessary” whereas 50% said it is not. Some 63% of independents said a review is “necessary.”

Regarding the LDP constitutional amendment proposal which includes the explicit statement of the existence of the Self-Defense Forces, more pollees were “opposed” to it being submitted to the extraordinary Diet session than were in favor, 42% to 36%. A high 61% of LDP supporters said they are “in favor,” but among Komeito supporters, those “opposed” exceeded those “in favor.”

Asked to select from a list of six policies the one they want to see the Abe administration focus on, some 30% of pollees selected “social security reform,” 17% said “economy and employment” while another 17% said “regional revitalization.” Some 15% said “fiscal reconstruction” and 10% said “diplomacy and security.” “Constitutional amendment” was the lowest rank option at 5%.

**[Polling methodology:** The survey was conducted on Oct. 13–14 on a computer-aided random digit dialing (RDD) basis of voters nationwide with telephone calls placed by pollsters to landline and mobile phone numbers (for landlines, some districts in Fukushima Prefecture were excluded). Valid responses were received from a total of 1,937 persons, including 965 persons (out of 2,040 households found to have one or more eligible voters) for landline numbers and 972 persons (out of the 2,021 persons found to be eligible voters) for mobile numbers. The valid response rates were 47% for landline numbers and 48% for mobile numbers.] [TOP](#)

### **Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun** (Asahi: October 16, 2018 – p. 4)

#### **Questions & answers (%)**

(Figures are rounded off. Some questions and answers have been omitted. All questions were asked of all respondents except for those questions indented and marked with a bullet, which are sub-questions. The figures given for sub-questions are percentages of the respondents in the given category. Bracketed figures denote percentages of all respondents. Parenthesized figures are the results of the survey taken on Sept. 8–9, 2018.)

#### ***Q: Do you support the Abe cabinet?***

Yes	40(41)
No	40(38)

- ***Q: (Only for those who answered “yes” to the foregoing question) Why? (Select only one response from the list below.)***

The prime minister is Mr. Abe	13[5]
It’s a Liberal Democratic Party-led cabinet	19[7]
Policies	16[6]
It seems better than the others	49[20]

- ***Q: (Only for those who answered “no” to the foregoing question) Why not? (Select only one response from the list below.)***

The prime minister is Mr. Abe	25[10]
It’s a Liberal Democratic Party-led cabinet	25[10]

Policies	37[15]
The others seem better	10[4]

**Q: Which political party do you support now? Please give the name of the party.**

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP or Jiminto)	37(40)
Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDPJ or Rikken Minshuto)	6(5)
Democratic Party for the People (DPFP or Kokumin Minshuto)	1(1)
Komeito (Komeito)	2(2)
Japanese Communist Party (JCP or Kyosanto)	2(3)
Nippon Ishin (Japan Innovation Party) (Nippon Ishin no Kai)	1(1)
Party of Hope (Kibo no To)	0(0)
Social Democratic Party (SDP or Shaminto)	0(0)
Liberal Party (Jiyuto)	0(0)
Party for Japanese Kokoro (Nihon no Kokoro)	0(0)
Other political party	0(0)
None of the above (NOTA)	40(36)
No answer (N/A) + Don't know (D/K)	11(12)

**Q: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reshuffled his cabinet. Looking at the cabinet lineup, do you approve of Prime Minister Abe's appointments?**

Yes	22
No	50

**Q: In the recent reshuffling, Prime Minister Abe retained Finance Minister Taro Aso. Do you approve of this?**

Yes	29
No	54

**Q: In the recent reshuffling, one woman was appointed to a cabinet position. Do you think it would have been better if more women had been appointed?**

Yes	54
No	31

**Q: Masahiko Shibayama, who was appointed Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, said that the prewar Imperial Rescript on Education, which was the core of education during the World War II, if modernly interpreted or arranged, could be used in such areas as moral education. Do you think that his statement is problematic?**

Yes	32
No	38

**Q: What policy do you want to see the Abe administration focus the most on? (Select only one response from the list below.)**

Economy and employment	17
Social security	30
Fiscal reconstruction	15
Diplomacy and security	10
Regional revitalization	17
Constitutional amendment	5

**Q: Prime Minister Abe has indicated the intent to reform the social security system over the next three years into one where all generations can live with a sense of peace. Are you optimistic about Prime Minister Abe's reform of the social security system?**



Yes	32
No	57

**Q: Prime Minister Abe has indicated the intent to resolve the issue of the abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea. Are you optimistic that the abductions issue will move toward resolution under Prime Minister Abe?**

Yes	33
No	59

**Q: To address the labor shortage, the government plans to amend legislation and accept more foreign workers. Are you in favor of or opposed to accepting more foreign workers?**

In favor	49
Opposed	37

**Q: Prime Minister Abe has expressed the intent to submit to the extraordinary Diet session that starts this month an LDP constitutional amendment proposal that would include the explicit statement of the existence of the Self-Defense Forces. Are you in favor of or opposed to submitting the proposal to the extraordinary Diet session?**

In favor	36
Opposed	42

**Q: On Oct. 7, the Kake Educational Institution chairman held a press conference regarding the scandals surrounding his institute's creation of a new veterinary school. Do you think the suspicions that Kake was given preferential treatment have been cleared up by the explanations given by Prime Minister Abe and by the Kake chairman?**

Yes	6
No	82

**Q: The Abe administration plans to relocate U.S. MCAS Futenma, which is in Okinawa Prefecture, to the Henoko district of Nago in the same prefecture. Denny Tamaki, who is opposed to the relocation to Henoko, was elected in the Okinawa gubernatorial election last month. Do you think that the Abe administration needs to review its relocation policy in light of the results of the election?**

Yes	55
No	30

**Q: Prime Minister Abe's term as LDP president ends in September 2021. Who do you think would be suitable to serve as the next party president? (Select only one response from the list below.)**

Shigeru Ishiba	22
Fumio Kishida	5
Seiko Noda	4
Taro Kono	6
Shinjiro Koizumi	28
None of the above	28

**Polling methodology:** The survey was conducted on Oct. 13–14 on a computer-aided random digit dialing (RDD) basis of voters nationwide with telephone calls placed by pollsters to landline and mobile phone numbers (for landlines, some districts in Fukushima Prefecture were excluded). Valid responses were received from a total of 1,937 persons, including 965 persons (out of 2,040 households found to have one or more eligible voters) for landline numbers and 972 persons (out of the 2,021 persons found to be eligible voters) for mobile numbers. The valid response rates were 47% for landline numbers and 48% for mobile numbers. [TOP](#)